

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /021 W  
-----092958 280936Z /23

R 271247Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8923

CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 4255

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, LE, US, PINR  
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON KHALIL ITANI

REF: (A) BEIRUT 4161, (B) STATE 187627

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE FOLLOWING IS BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON KHALIL ITANI, LEBANESE AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. AMBASSADOR ITANI, A SUNNI MUSLIM, WAS BORN IN BEIRUT IN 1920. HE IS MARRIED (WIFE'S NAME ASTHA), BUT HAS NO CHILDREN. AMBASSADOR ITANI ATTENDED THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS:

-- 1927 TO 1939: MAQASSID ISLAMIYA HIGH SCHOOL, BEIRUT.

-- 1939 TO 1943: AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT; RECEIVED B.A.

-- 1950 TO 1951: AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT; RECEIVED M.A.

3. AMBASSADOR ITANI HAS HELD THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

-- 1941 TO 1951: TEACHER AT MAQASSID ISLAMIYA HIGH SCHOOL, BEIRUT.

-- 1948 TO 1951: EDITOR OF SADA AL ANSAR, A FORMER BEIRUT NEWSPAPER DEVOTED LARGEMLY TO SPORTS.

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-- 1946 TO 1949: CHIEF OF THE PRESS SECTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

-- 1949 TO 1952: CHIEF OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

-- 1952 TO 1960: CHIEF OF THE ARAB AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND CONCURRENTLY MEMBER OF THE LEBANESE DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK.

-- 1960 TO 1964: COUNSELLOR OF EMBASSY, PARIS.

-- 1965 TO 1967: CONCURRENTLY AMBASSADOR TO GHANA, TOGO, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND CHAD.

-- 1967 TO 1969: AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA.

-- 1969 TO 1971: AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA.

-- 1971 TO 1976: AMBASSADOR TO ALGIERIA.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. FROM 1976 TO THE PRESENT, ITANI HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ESSENTIALLY WAITING ASSIGNMENT WITHOUT A JOB.

5. AMBASSADOR ITANI SPEAKS ENGLISH AND FRENCH AS WELL AS HIS NATIVE ARABIC. HE HAS NO KNOWN MEMBERSHIP IN ANY BEIRUT POLITICAL PARTIES. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL ABBAS HAMIYAH AND OTHER SOURCES, ITANI IS CLOSE TO PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL-HOSS, WHO PUSHED HARD TO HAVE ITANI APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON. END CONFIDENTIAL.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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